

and Fischer concludes that, except for Melanesia, their status has risen in the past hundred years. A modern mobility among Pacific Islanders, he writes, has brought large numbers of them to live and work in New Zealand and the USA.

We already know most of the prehistoric material that Fischer presents. The Pacific's earliest immigrants left Sunda, the prehistoric Asian continent, reaching Sahul (ancient Australia) where, by 50,000 years ago, they had become the true Dreamtime ancestors of the Aboriginal Australians and Archaic Papuans (a map of ancient Sunda and Sahul would have been useful).

Fischer claims that, "The 'Pacific Islands' as a human habitat began in New Guinea and the Bismarck and Solomon Archipelagos" about 12,000 years ago as the seas began rising. Archaic Papuans stayed close to home in Near Oceania probably due to the lack of flora and fauna east of the Wallace Line that could not support their communities. When Southern Mongoloid Austronesians sailed onto the scene about 4500 years ago, they lived separately but amicably with the Papuans for a while and then, about 3000 years ago, began voyaging farther and farther into Remote Oceania. "Papuans (were) the first Islanders of Near Oceania, (and) Austronesians the first Islanders of Remote Oceania", writes Fischer.

We know the Austronesians trafficked in Lapita ware and other goods in Near Oceania, and Patrick Kirch has written about the "first Polynesian footfall" that began destroying the fragile ecological balance of Pacific islands. Now, Fischer tells us that in 1521 Magellan's arrival in Guam introduced three centuries of European colonialism. This event "created new Pacific identities...the new foreign atop the old indigenous... (leading to) the 'modern native' who was becoming the universally recognizable New Islander."

The main result of WWII, aside from crushing Japan, writes Fischer, was the "projection of US power throughout the region". Even though many Pacific Islanders fought along side of white colonialists during World War II, the status of Islanders remained the same when the fighting stopped. Fischer's ranking of European colonists in the Pacific is fearless. He gives the worst grades to the USA in Micronesia, France in the Central Pacific, Chile on Rapa Nui and Indonesia in Melanesia. However in parts of the post-war Pacific, indigenous leaders emerged who supported *regionalism* politically. Fischer defines regionalism as, "the division of an area into administrative regions having partial autonomy."

Mixed gene pools have produced a new type of Pacific Islander today who may claim ancestry in several different ethnic groups and who travels to other islands for sports and cultural events. Most impressive has been The Festival of Pacific Arts, a quadrennial event that since 1972 has taken place in Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, Australia, the Cook Islands, Western Samoa and New Caledonia.

Pacific economies vary according to an Island's natural resources. Melanesia has minerals, but on those islands lacking natural resources service industries have become important. About 40% of money earned from tourism remains in the host country, but the negative social and environmental impacts on small islands are often enormous. Fischer tells us that the newest money-maker in the Pacific is the Casinos of the South Pacific based in the Cook Islands.

Fischer bases his hope for the future of Pacific Islanders on what he terms, a "Union of Pacific Islands". Of the two bodies that have "dominated" the governance of Pacific Islands since the end of WW II (the European influenced Secretariat of the Pacific and the indigenous South Pacific Forum), he backs the indigenous Forum as most productive for Islanders. However, he admits that it will be the super challenge of the 21st century to unify an area still struggling internally with economics and, in some places, still politically cursed by colonialism.

Fischer has written this book as a scientist and a linguist, so students may find words like "positivistic" a bit of a mouthful. His students in Pacific Island History 101 would do well to keep an OED nearby!

¹ PALGRAVE is the new global academic imprint of St. Martin's Press LLC Scholarly and Reference Division and Palgrave Publishers Ltd (formerly Macmillan Press, Ltd).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The *Journal* continues to be great, and the adjustment to only receiving it twice a year, which saddened me when first considered, is quite balanced by enjoying it twice as much every six months! I have not been to Rapa Nui for a long time it seems, but my interest and fascination continue at a high level. I hope to attend the next Conference on Easter Island in Chile. Ferren McIntyre is a great addition to your writers. In Albuquerque I was walking across the campus with this tall thin laid back guy in blue jeans, talking about many things (it was Ferren) and then somewhat to my surprise he was on the program about half an hour later. I find him very funny, sharp and provocative. He deals with such vital issues.....are we fishing out the ocean?

I think I have told you before, I have every issue from the very first one you sent me.

Hugh Brodie, Canada

[The following letter was received by Grant McCall who shared it with us. After we stopped laughing, we thought to share with our readers.]

At an early age I realized that there was something wrong with Autumn. I just couldn't stand it; school, falling leaves, depressing weather, biting cold, heavy clothes, no outdoor sports, no fun in the park . . . I thought that I could do very well without Autumn, Winter too. So, at an early age I determined that the day that I could afford it: I would fly over to the other side of the equator on the Autumn Equinox, and begin the first day of Spring. 'Brazil' was my imagined destination. Then, on March 20th or so in 'Brazil', when it was their first day of Autumn, I would fly back to the States and start the first day of Spring again. It seemed like a very wise plan.... So, the day finally arrived when I find that I've saved enough money for the '1st of Spring Expedition', saved enough money to live in 'Spring Forever'. At the time I realize this, I'm lying on the beach in Southern Spain, it's Sunday, and it's the 3rd of November, 2002. And now I must work out the details, will I go to Brazil? Where will I go on the other side of the equator?

Thinking, thinking. . . no great feeling for Brazil. . . no I can't speak Portuguese [sic]. . . an idea wells up in my mind saying: 'Easter Island'. As this Island poses a riddle for me, the 'huge stone beings' there being a mystery to everybody, and me, I have an idea that's different from all other theories postulated thus far as to the origin and construction of these mysterious stone beings. A mystery to all but the 'huge being' that whispered the idea into my ear while I was having a drink at Casteñeda's bar in Granada, the huge being whispered the idea into my ear psychically - outside and across - space and time. What he said to me was this: 'That those are not stone statues at all, but the 'astral bodies', the 'emotional bodies', of beings that were terrified of life, to scared to live, and this is the shape their emotional bodies took WHEN THEY BECAME PARALYZED [sic] WITH FEAR.' Somewhat similar to the Biblical story of Sodom and Gomorrah where 'if you looked back you would be turned into a Pilar [sic] of Salt'. The stone monuments of Easter Island and the Sodom and Gomorrah story are connected as they both have to do with negative emotional states that can solidify.

Now, I'd like to make myself clear at this, the beginning of the expedition: I'm firstly interested in my theories of 'Eternal Spring' and the beneficial effects it may have on my being, and secondly, I need an interesting place to test them out at - on the other side of the equator. There's one more reason that has set my compass towards Easter Island. That being, that at this time in my life, I'm quite a doctor and quite a psychologist, who's [sic] latest information on mental retardation says that 'it's the hardest disease in the world to cure, and that mentally retarded people have the same level of consciousness, the same level of awareness as STONE.

At the beginning of this expediton [sic] I'd also like to say that this is a [sic] independently financed trip (meaning that I'm paying for everything myself), and I'll frankly admit that I could use some financial aid. Those that help support this venture, whether it's in the form of financial aid or otherwise, will be given in return: All information and knowledge gained on the trip with no secrets withheld. And secondly, and most importantly, they will gain the great advantage in health that I expect to gain by escaping Autumn now and moving to the 'first of Spring' where and when the 'rivers of life flow once again'. They need not come with me 'physically' as my emotional 'aura', my emotional 'radiation', will supposedly and proposedly [sic] be radiating the vibration of the first of Spring to all those in my group. Lastly, I'd like to say to you - my prospective backers, that my theory is: that Eternal Spring rides close on the tail of 'Eternal Youth'. I would be very grateful for any aid, in any form whatsoever, at this, the beginning of my expedition. Please send your support to: EASTER ISLAND EXPEDITION, Calle Marin, Nerja, Malaga, Spain. Thank you one and all, and I hope we'll be traveling together!

Sir Thomas Baxter, Archaeologist, Anthropologist,
Doctor, and Explorer.

Sir Baxter doesn't mention what it was that he was drinking in Casteñeda's bar in Granada. Readers, beware of those radiating vibrations!

Dear Mrs. Marla Wold,

I address this to you first and foremost in order to thank you for having awarded me the 2002 Easter Island Foundation scholarship that has been a great support not only for my personal development but also as a professional contribution to my Rapa Nui community, this being the principal drive in order to initiate my higher level studies.

Thanks to the contribution, during this second semester of 2002 I will obtain the degree of licensed Architect as a first step to receiving the professional title in year 2003. My intentions are to apply again for the scholarship for year 2003 and thus obtain the title of professional architect.

I have taken the liberty of communicating with you in order to get information relating to the process of applying for 2003 scholarship as well as giving you the address where you can send the above information.

Kindly I say good-bye,
Alfonso Rapu Cardinale

PUBLICATIONS

Solheim II, W. G. *The Archaeology of Central Philippines* (revised edition) is now in print. It is pp. 259, and contains 50 plates, 31 text figures, and index. The price for hard cover is US\$30.00, soft cover \$22.50, plus postage. The airmail postage rates are: Asia \$11.00; Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific \$14.00; US \$15.40; and South America US \$16.00. Surface mail anywhere is US \$6.00. For further information contact Dr Solheim at <wsolheim@edsamail.com.ph> or by snail mail: Unit 2105 UP-Balay International House, M. Guerrero at Dagohoy Sts., University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101 Philippines.

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